

BUREAU OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION
Special Investigations Section

13 March 2012
CL 1048999

Statement Of: Witness Police Officer Alvin STAGGERS:, Star # 17056, Unit 145,

Statement taken at: 3510 S. Michigan Ave., Internal Affairs Division

Questioned by: Sergeant Jamie KANE, Star # 1194

Typed by: Sergeant Jamie KANE, Star # 1194

Date and Time: 13 March 2012 / 0725 hours

KANE: What are your full name, rank, Star number and Unit of assignment?

STAGGERS: Alvin STAGGERS:, Police Officer, Star # 17056, Unit 145

KANE: What is your employee number?

STAGGERS: [REDACTED]

KANE: What is your date of appointment to the Department?

STAGGERS: [REDACTED]

KANE: How long have you been assigned to your present unit?

STAGGERS: I have been here six years.

KANE: Have you been advised that this is a witness statement and that there are no allegations being made against you?

STAGGERS: Yes.

KANE: Rule 14 of the Chicago Police Department's Rules and Regulations prohibits making a false report, written or oral. You may be separated from the Chicago Police Department if you make a false report. Do you understand this is an official Police Department report and that any deviations from the truth could result in allegations or charges being placed against you?

STAGGERS: Yes.

KANE: What are your responsibilities in Unit 145?

STAGGERS: Right now I am the assistant timekeeper.

KANE: How long have you been the assistant timekeeper?

STAGGERS: Four years.

KANE: Who is your direct supervisor in Unit 145?

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STAGGERS: Now it is Lieutenant Avila, prior to that Lieutenant Blanco.

KANE: On 30 September 2011 what were your duty hours and assignment?

STAGGERS: I was the timekeeper; I would have been 7 to 3.

KANE: On 30 September 2011 did you observe/or hear anything unusual involving Police Officer Prendergast?

STAGGERS: Nothing sticks out about that date.

KANE: Is there anything unusual you recall during that time period around September/October 2011 that you observed or heard involving Police Officer Prendergast?

STAGGERS: I don't remember when it was but she was pregnant and I had to calm her down.

KANE: Please explain.

STAGGERS: A couple of times she went and had a talk with Lieutenant Blanco, and she came out of the office. I remember once she was in tears. All she said was something like, "I am just sick and tired of this." I told her to take time and go home.

KANE: Did she tell you what was she sick and tired of?

STAGGERS: No, I asked her and she would not tell me.

KANE: Where were you when you had that conversation with Police Officer Prendergast?

STAGGERS: In the office at her new cubicle, she used to have a cubicle directly in front of the Lieutenant's office, she moved to the far left of the room by the window.

KANE: Why did she move her cubicle?

STAGGERS: I don't know.

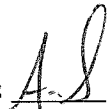
KANE: Was anyone else present when Police Officer Prendergast left Lieutenant Blanco's office crying?

STAGGERS: I believe Wylette Collins and Michael Ostrowski were there.

KANE: Was the Lieutenant in his office when Police Officer Prendergast came out crying?

STAGGERS: Yes.

KANE: Did you hear anything of the conversation between Police Officer Prendergast and Lieutenant Blanco, on that day?

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STAGGERS: No.

KANE: Did Police Officer Prendergast take your advice and go home that day?

STAGGERS: No, she didn't.

KANE: Did you ever come to know why Police Officer Prendergast was crying that day?

STAGGERS: No, but after I had told her what to do, go home, the Lieutenant called all of the administrative people in his office and told us that we all had to start emailing him when we got to work and when we left work. He said the reason for that was that somebody wasn't staying the whole tour, or something.

KANE: Did he say who wasn't staying the whole tour?

STAGGERS: No, he wouldn't say who was telling him. I told him "well kick them out of the unit then." That is when Sheila said, "who is telling you this?" The Lieutenant said "never mind." That was the end of the meeting.

KANE: Does Police Officer Prendergast come late for work?

STAGGERS: She starts before me so I wouldn't know.

KANE: As the timekeeper, do you recall ever marking her tardy?

STAGGERS: No. I wasn't her timekeeper though. Wayne Andrews was here timekeeper.

KANE: Has Lieutenant Blanco ever discussed with you the working hours of the members of the office?

STAGGERS: NO.

KANE: Is there a specific problem with tardiness and of individuals leaving early?

STAGGERS: Not that I knew of.

KANE: Did Lieutenant Blanco ever discuss a solution to this problem with you?

STAGGERS: No.

KANE: Do you know when he told Police Officer Prendergast to email him when she arrived at work?

STAGGERS: He told us all at that meeting.

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KANE: I am now showing you a copy of a To-From dated 30 September 2011, have you seen this report before?

STAGGERS: Yes, I have seen it. Sheila told me that it was left on her desk. I don't know when she told me. I think two other people told me they had one on their desk. I think one was Wayne Andrews and Jackie Simon. I didn't get one. I don't know if it was after the meeting, I think it was.

KANE: Is this practice now in place in Unit 145?

STAGGERS: No.

KANE: On 03 October 2011 what were your duty hours and assignment?

STAGGERS: 7 to 3 still the assistant timekeeper.

KANE: On 03 October 2011 did you observe/or hear anything unusual involving Police Officer Prendergast?

STAGGERS: I don't remember the dates; I do remember the Lieutenant coming into work in a foul mood on a number of days. He would yell loudly at either Kim Sutter or Sheila, "get in here" meaning his office and he would slam the door. Some days he would just come in and just slam his door.

KANE: Did you hear a discussion between Police Officer Prendergast and Sergeant Norwood regarding Lieutenant Blanco on 03 October 2011?

MALDONADO: No.

KANE: Did you ever hear a discussion between Police Officer Prendergast and Sergeant Norwood regarding Lieutenant Blanco on 03 October 2011?

STAGGERS: No, where I sit I wouldn't have heard them. I don't know when it was but I did overhear Sergeant Norwood tell Lieutenant Blanco he needed to stop closing his door when his secretaries were in his office.

KANE: Do you know why she told him that?

STAGGERS: No, I don't know why.

KANE: Did anyone else hear this?

STAGGERS: I don't know, I was just walking by.

KANE: Did Lieutenant Blanco ever talk to you about Police Officer Prendergast? If yes, what did he tell you?

STAGGERS: No, he did not.

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KANE: Did you ever hear Lieutenant Blanco talk to anyone else about Police Officer Prendergast?

STAGGERS: No.

KANE: Did anyone ever tell you that Police Officer Prendergast was reporting to Lieutenant Blanco individuals' arrival and departure times from the office and the things that go on in the office?

STAGGERS: No, and that does not even seem like her.

KANE: Have you observed Lieutenant Blanco treat Police Officer Prendergast different than others in the office?

STAGGERS: No, I can't say that I saw him treat her different, he demanded a lot from his secretaries. He had two secretaries.

KANE: Have you ever observed unprofessional behavior by Lieutenant Blanco?

STAGGERS: I guess it was unprofessional when he yelled at them, Sheila and Kim, to get in his office, him slamming his door. I remember once he came and yelled loud to Kim that she was on the street, get a ticket book and get out. I think everyone in the office heard that.

KANE: Do you know when it was that he yelled at Police Officer Sutter to get a ticket book and get out?

STAGGERS: No. It was last year, in the fall.

KANE: Have you ever witnessed inappropriate behavior or comments made by Lieutenant Blanco?

STAGGERS: No more that what I have just mentioned.

KANE: Have you ever observed Lieutenant Blanco slam his door when Police Officer Prendergast said "Good morning" to him?

STAGGERS: I know he has come in and slam his door but I don't know that it was after she said good morning or not.

KANE: Do you know if Lieutenant Blanco changed the responsibilities of Police Officer Prendergast?

STAGGERS: No.

KANE: Did you work the Vice Presidential motorcade in July 2011?

STAGGERS: Not that I recall.

KANE: Did you work any other Vice Presidential motorcade that year? If yes, when?

STAGGERS: I don't recall.

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KANE: Have you ever heard Lieutenant Blanco comment on the appearance of individuals assigned to work in the office?
STAGGERS: Not that I recall.

KANE: Did you ever hear Lieutenant Blanco say "I'm sick of Sheila?"
STAGGERS: No.

KANE: Did you ever hear Lieutenant Blanco tell Police Officer Prendergast "what, you didn't have time to put makeup on this morning?"
STAGGERS: No.

KANE: Did you ever hear Lieutenant Blanco tell Police Officer Prendergast "your hair looks greasy"?
STAGGERS: No.

KANE: Did you ever hear Lieutenant Blanco tell Police Officer Prendergast "you wouldn't have gotten the job down in traffic looking like this; you came in looking like a model"?
STAGGERS: No.

KANE: Did you ever hear Lieutenant Blanco tell Police Officer Prendergast that she had a bad ass, the only good thing her kids did for her was make her ass bigger?
STAGGERS: No.

KANE: Did you ever hear Lieutenant Blanco discuss his personal/family life in the office?
STAGGERS: Yes.

KANE: What exactly did you hear?
STAGGERS: I heard him say his wife was going through cancer, and he needed to spend more time with his girls.

KANE: What are the responsibilities of Police Officer Kim Sutter?
STAGGERS: She is the secretary, she rides the motorcycles, and she has been to dignitary security training.

KANE: Who does Police Officer Sutter report to?
STAGGERS: Lieutenant Blanco.

KANE: Have you ever witnessed any inappropriate behavior between Police Officer Kim Sutter and Lieutenant Blanco?

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STAGGERS: I think it is strange that she eats lunch in his office with him. Because my opinion if you are the CO of the unit you have two timekeepers, five secretaries, how do you find so much time for one, meaning Kim. I have had to go in the office when they are in there, because I have to get a slip signed or something.

KANE: Have you ever heard Lieutenant Blanco express displeasure with Police Officer Sutter?

MALEDONADO: I have heard him yell at her about what her job is for the day, I can't say that is displeasure.

KANE: Have you ever been the driver for Lieutenant Blanco?

STAGGERS: One time. I was the driver running the route the day before a Police Officer's funeral; I think it was the Sergeant who got killed on Lake Shore Dr. I was supposed to be his driver for the funeral the next day. We were running the route and Kim called him about fifty times, and finally the Lieutenant told me that he was tired of her calling him. Then he asked me if I would mind being the tail car because Kim thought it was unfair that I was going to be his driver.

KANE: Does Lieutenant Blanco routinely have closed door conversations with subordinates?

STAGGERS: The only two people that I can think of is Kim Sutter and Howard Burton that go in and close the door.

KANE: Has Lieutenant Blanco ever had a closed door meeting with you?

STAGGERS: No.

KANE: Did Lieutenant Blanco ever discuss a specific problem regarding personal pictures on the desks in the office?

STAGGERS: Not with me.

KANE: Do the individuals who work in the office have personal pictures on their desks?

STAGGERS: Sure.

KANE: Did Lieutenant Blanco tell Police Officer Prendergast to remove her personal pictures from her desk in the office?

STAGGERS: I wouldn't know.

KANE: Has Lieutenant Blanco told others to remove their personal items from the desk in the office?

STAGGERS: Not that I know of.

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KANE: Has Police Officer Prendergast ever told you of any complaints she has with Lieutenant Blanco?

STAGGERS: No.

KANE: Is there anything you would like to add to this statement?

STAGGERS: No.

KANE: You are being advised that this is an ongoing investigation and you are not to reveal or discuss this written statement or its contents with anyone other than your attorney, do you understand?

STAGGERS: Yes.

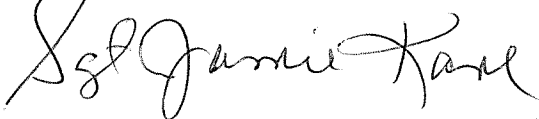
KANE: After reading this statement consisting of eight pages and finding it to contain accurately the questions asked and the responses that you have given will you sign it?

STAGGERS: Yes.

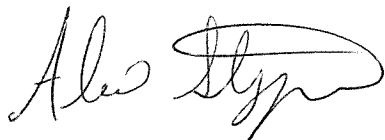
Statement concluded at 0845 hours.



Police Officer Alvin STAGGERS, Star # 17056, Unit 145



Sergeant Jamie KANE, Star # 1194, Unit 121



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Bureau of Patrol
Special Functions Group
Traffic Unit

30 September 2011

To: Traffic Administration Staff

From: Lt. David Blanco
Commanding Officer
Traffic Section

Subject: Work Schedule

Officers are required to fulfill a full tour of duty, arriving on time and ending their tour of duty at the assigned time. If an officer is more than 10 minutes late, they will notify their supervisor and submit a slip for the time they were tardy. They also have the option of making up time at the end of their tour of duty.

Upon reporting for duty, officers will immediately send an e-mail to the undersigned to notify him they have reported for duty. Upon completion of their tour, officers will send the undersigned an e-mail, noting their sign-off time. A meeting of all administrative staff will take place during the week of 02 October 2011, date and time to be determined.

Lt. David Blanco #794

DB:km